

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

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MORNING PAPERS: Thursday, 19th February, 1948.

EVENING PAPERS: Thursday, 19th February, 1948.

BROADCASTING STATIONS: Midnight, Wednesday, 18th February, 1948.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

December, 1947.

Employment Still Rising.

At the close of the year 1947 the number of persons in civilian employment (2,329,000), exclusive of rural workers and female private domestic service, surpassed all previous records, although the rate of increase was less during December than that shown in previous months, being only 0.17 per cent as compared with 0.3 to 0.5 per cent. Of the total increase of 3,800 (3,500 males and 300 females), 3,000 were employed by Government authorities and 800 by private establishments.

Rise in Government Employment.

Of the rise of 3,000 in Government employment 1,500 (1,300 males and 200 females) were employed by Commonwealth authorities, 1,400 (males) by State authorities and 100 (males) by Local Government authorities. Practically the whole of the increase in Commonwealth Government employment occurred in the Postmaster-General's Department, mainly for handling of Xmas mails. State authorities engaged 1,200 men to handle the wheat harvest at silos, etc.

Rise in All States except Queensland.

Male and female employment rose in all States except Queensland (decrease in males), and Victoria (decrease in females)

Increases in Industrial Groups.

The seasonal rise in employment in retail stores which began in November continued throughout December when employment rose by 6,700 persons (males 3,800 females 2,900). Other commerce showed an increase of 1,200 males due to extra staff employed at islos, etc. to handle the wheat harvest. The seasonal rise in post office staffs accounted for most of the rise in the Transport and Communication group

Seasonal Decline in Factory and Building Employment.

There was a seasonal decline shown by returns relating to the building industry.

Manufacturing employment showed the usual downward seasonal movement from November to December and on this occasion declined by 4,800 (males 3,100 females 1,700). The chief variations, which were due to seasonal factors, occurred in two classes - Clothing and Food and Drink. In clothing factories female employment declined in New South Wales and Victoria. In food manufacture the chief movements were an increase in the numbers of females engaged in fruit canning and jam making in N.S.W., South Australia and Tasmania and a heavy decline in males employed in sugar mills and meat works in Queensland.

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18th February, 1948.